

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly newscast

# February 11<sup>th</sup> 2013

Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Barbara Edmondson

### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)



<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

**Vocabulary** - Read the definitions below, and then put the sentences in the correct order. *Answers are in the appendix.*

| Words     | Definitions   |
|-----------|---|
| convert   | to change the form or use for something               |
| solution  | way to solve a problem                                |
| approve   | agree with, give permission for                       |
| pipeline  | a line with a pump to move gas or liquid, usually oil |
| submitted | given in  |
| shortfall | not enough money to do something                      |

1. my basement rental suite. to a I want convert to  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. children's argument The solution the to is each sister for to take turns  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. the presentation topic. My has to teacher approve  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. support pipeline. the Some do people not  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. submitted must Tuesday. on homework Our be  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. shortfall this month We a have and ask need our parents to a loan for.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

## Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ The Premier of Nova Scotia was in Alberta this week..
2. \_\_\_\_ He has a plan to move oil from the East coast to Alberta.
3. \_\_\_\_ The plan will convert a pipeline from carrying natural gas to oil.
4. \_\_\_\_ The pipeline is owned by the Government of Alberta.
5. \_\_\_\_ Alberta could be \$6 billion short for the budget this year.

## Discussion Question

Do you support the conversion of this pipeline? What are the arguments in favour and against more pipelines for Alberta oil?

## News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

|                                  |                           |                    |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| mint (place where money is made) | <del>journey</del> (trip) | consumer (buyer)   |
| distribution (give out)          | worth (money value)       | retailers (stores) |
| extinction (no longer exist)     | purchase (to buy)         | billed (charged)   |

### Extra vocabulary to help you understand the listening

**Round up/ round down** – to change a number to the nearest possible amount. (\$1.04 may be **rounded up** to \$1.05; \$1.02 may be **rounded down** to \$1.00)

1. She began her journey across the country.
2. If we do not stop polluting the earth many animals face \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of newspapers has declined because many people use the internet to read the news.
4. On a school trip we went to a \_\_\_\_\_ to see how money was made.
5. Smart \_\_\_\_\_ always wait for sales before they \_\_\_\_\_ an expensive item.
6. It is difficult to know how much a product is \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ must charge more for products so they can pay their expenses.
8. Shoppers should check how much they were \_\_\_\_\_ because sometimes people and computers make mistakes.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What will soon become extinct in Canada?
2. What did the Royal Canadian Mint end on Monday?
3. How long can business accept pennies?
4. When did the government decide to stop producing pennies?
5. Why did the government decide to stop producing pennies?
6. If retailers no longer want to use the penny, what should they do?
7. How will electronic purchases be billed?

### Discussion Question

How often do you use cash to purchase things? Do you think it is better to use cash, credit cards or debit cards for your shopping? Why?

### News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

| Answer | Word          | Definition  |
|--------|---------------|---|
|        | 1. historical | a) a blood relative generations later (grandchildren, great grandchildren...)       |
|        | 2. mystery    | b) the bones of a body  |
|        | 3. confuse    | c) having to do with the past   |
|        | 4. D-N-A      | d) A huge church  |
|        | 5. remains    | e) to be unclear; to make people question the truth                                 |
|        | 6. skeleton   | f) to put in the ground again   |
|        | 7. descendant | g) genetics – the traits and qualities we get from our parents                      |
|        | 8. hunchback  | h) something that is left; a dead body  |
|        | 9. reburied   | i) a story with an unknown ending   |
|        | 10. cathedral | j) a person who has a bump on his/her back because of a problem with his/her spine. |

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

### Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. A D-N-A sample from a Canadian family has _____.  | a) solved a historical mystery<br>b) confused historical experts      |
| 2. Scientists say _____ England's King Richard III have been found.                                    | a) the mystery of<br>b) the 500-year-old remains of                   |
| 3. King Richard III died in _____.   | a) in a parking lot in 1985<br>b) battle in 1485                      |
| 4. Scientists compared D-N-A from the skeleton to a Canadian family that are Richard's sister's _____. | a) direct descendants<br>b) relatives                                 |
| 5. King Richard III was made famous _____.   | a) as the hunchback in a movie<br>b) in a play by William Shakespeare |
| 6. The mayor of Leicester said the king will be reburied _____.  | a) in the city's cathedral<br>b) in the city.                         |

### Discussion Question

How far back can you trace your family history? How important are ancestors (grandparents, great-grandparents, great great-grandparents....) in your culture?

## Language Focus

### Roman numerals

Roman numerals – this was a number system used in ancient Rome that used letters from the (Latin) alphabet to represent numbers. We still see this number system used today in the following situations:

- when we talk about Monarchs (King Edward III)
- on copyright dates of films and TV programs
- to show the hours on some analogue watches
- in sporting events to show which game it is (NFL Super Bowl XLVII)
- showing organization, to identify sections and subsections of a paper
- the first and second world war (WWI and WWII)
- on some public buildings

|  |   |
|--|---|
| I – one<br>V – five<br>X – ten<br>L – 50<br>C – 100<br>D – 500<br>M – 1000 | <p>The symbols are combined and added to create numbers. Symbols are placed in order of value.</p> <p>From one to 10 is written:<br/>I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X</p> <p>Notice that 4 and 9 are written as 1 before 5 and 1 before 10.<br/>I, X, C, and M can be repeated up to three times.<br/>CC = 200</p> |
|--|---|

When we write longer numbers we start with the largest number and get smaller.

LIV – 54

CLXV – 165

CXL – 140

MDCC – 1700

Try to write the following numbers in Roman numerals: *Answers are in the appendix.*

2013

554

868

1342

Nowadays we most commonly see Roman numerals when the writing is about:

- royalty, for example, King Richard III. In this case we should say - King Richard the third
- numbers on the introduction section of a book, before chapter one, for example page IX . In this case we should say - page nine
- movie sequels, Lord of the Rings, part III. In this case we should say - part three
- events, like the Olympic games, for example in London the XXX Olympic Games took place in 2012. In this case we should say - thirtieth Olympic Games

## Transcripts of Weekly news stories

|              | FEBRUARY 8 <sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES  | TIME  |
|--------------|---|-------|
| Introduction | Hi, this is Carla Beynon. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for February 8 <sup>th</sup> .  | 0:00  |
| Story 1      | The Premier of New Brunswick - David Alward - was in Alberta this week, meeting with Premier Alison Redford. They talked about the possibility of a pipeline that would carry oil from Alberta to the East Coast. The plan is to convert a pipeline for natural gas into an oil pipeline. The pipeline is owned by TransCanada. Alward says the oil pipeline could be a solution to Alberta's budget problems. Alberta is expecting a shortfall of 6 billion dollars this year because of lower than expected oil prices. But, it would take years for this pipeline conversion to become a reality. The National Energy Board has to approve the project and Trans Canada has not even submitted a proposal to build it. | 0:10  |
| Story 2      | The Canadian penny has begun a journey to extinction. On Monday, the Royal Canadian Mint ended distribution of one-cent coins to Canada's banks. But businesses can still accept the penny as long as they choose. The government announced the end of the penny nearly a year ago as a way to save money because the Mint was spending more to make pennies than they were worth. Retailers who decide to no longer accept pennies as part of cash payments will have to round up or down consumer purchases to the nearest five cents. Electronic purchases will still be billed to the cent.   | 01:15 |
| Story 3      | A historical mystery that confused the experts for hundreds of years has finally been solved, thanks to a D-N-A sample from a Canadian family. Scientists say they have found the 500-year-old remains of England's King Richard III under a parking lot in the city of Leicester. Richard died in battle in 1485. Scientists compared the skeleton's D-N-A with samples taken from a Canadian family that is a direct descendant of Richard's eldest sister, and found the samples match. Richard was made famous in a play by William Shakespeare as a hunchback who had his two young nephews murdered to become king. The mayor of Leicester said the king will be reburied in the city's cathedral.                  | 02:07 |

## Answer keys

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary

1. I want to convert my basement to a rental suite.
2. The solution to the children's argument is to take turns.
3. My teacher has to approve the presentation topic.
4. Some people do not support the pipeline.
5. Our homework must be submitted on Tuesday.
6. WE have a shortfall this month and need to ask our parents for a loan

#### Listening

1. **F** The Premier of Nova Scotia was in Alberta this week.
2. **F** He has a plan to move oil from the East coast to Alberta.
3. **T** The plan will convert a pipeline from carrying natural gas to oil.
4. **F** The pipeline is owned by the Government of Alberta.
5. **T** Alberta could be \$6 billion short for the budget this year.

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary

1. She began her journey across the country.
2. If we do not stop polluting the earth many animals face extinction.
3. The distribution of newspapers has declined because many people use the internet to read the news.
4. On a school trip we went to a mint to see how money was made.
5. Smart consumers always wait for sales before they purchase an expensive item.
6. It is difficult to know how much a product is worth.
7. Retailers must charge more for products so they can pay their expenses.
8. Shoppers should check how much they were billed because sometimes people and computers make mistakes.

#### Listening

1. What will soon become extinct in Canada? *The penny or one cent-coin*
2. What did the Royal Canadian Mint end on Monday? *The distribution of pennies to Canada's banks*
3. How long can business accept pennies? *As long as they choose*
4. When did the government decide to stop producing pennies? *Last year*
5. Why did the government decide to stop producing pennies? *To save money. It cost more to make the penny than the penny was worth.*

6. If retailers no longer want to use the penny, what should they do? *They should round the purchase up or down to the nearest five cents.*
7. How will electronic purchases be billed? *They will still be billed to the cent*

### News story 3

#### Vocabulary

| Answer | Word          | Definition  |
|--------|---------------|---|
| c      | 1. historical | a) a blood relative generations later (my grandchildren, great grandchildren...)    |
| i      | 2. mystery    | b) the bones of a body  |
| e      | 3. confuse    | c) having to do with the past   |
| g      | 4. DNA        | d) A huge church  |
| h      | 5. remains    | e) to be unclear; to make people question the truth                                 |
| b      | 6. skeleton   | f) to put in the ground again   |
| a      | 7. descendant | g) genetics – the traits and qualities we get from our parents                      |
| j      | 8. hunchback  | h) something that is left; a dead body  |
| f      | 9. reburied   | i) a story with an unknown ending   |
| d      | 10. cathedral | j) a person who has a bump on his/her back because of a problem with his/her spine. |

#### Listening

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. A D-N-A sample from a Canadian family has _____.  | a) solved a historical mystery<br>b) confused historical experts      |
| 2. Scientists say _____ England's King Richard III have been found.                                    | a) the mystery of<br>b) the 500-year-old remains of                   |
| 3. King Richard III died in _____.   | a) in a parking lot in 1985<br>b) battle in 1485                      |
| 4. Scientists compared D-N-A from the skeleton to a Canadian family that are Richard's sister's _____. | a) direct descendants<br>b) relatives                                 |
| 5. King Richard III was made famous _____.   | a) as the hunchback in a movie<br>b) in a play by William Shakespeare |
| 6. The mayor of Leicester said the king will be reburied _____.  | a) in the city's cathedral<br>b) in the city.                         |

Language focus:

2013 - MMXIII

554 - DLIV

868 - DCCCXLVIII

1342 - MCCCXLII